

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) In a system comprising a client, a context management (CM) server and a network that couples the client to the server, the client executing at least one client application that shares a context with another application for a period of time, the CM server executing a context management service to manage the context, the context comprising at least one subject data item usable by the at least one client application and the another application, the at least one subject data item having a set of values comprising a first value corresponding to the at least one client application and a second value corresponding to the another application, a method of facilitating communication between the client and the CM server, the method comprising acts of:
 - (a) establishing a connection, through the network, between the client and the CM server to enable communication between the CM server and the client; and
 - (b) maintaining the connection between the client and the CM server for the period of time during which the at least two applications share the context.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the act (a) further comprises establishing a backchannel connection between the client and the CM server through TCP/IP.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the network includes security facilities that prevent the CM server from establishing a connection to the client.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the client comprises a locator utility, and wherein the act (a) comprises an act of establishing the connection between the locator utility and the CM server.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising an act of using the connection to transmit communication from the CM server to the client for communication transactions initiated by the CM server.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising an act of using the connection to conduct a plurality of transactions between the client and the CM server.
7. (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising an act (c) of transmitting a communication from the CM server to the at least one client application, the act of transmitting comprising:
 - (c1) transmitting the communication from the CM server to the locator utility; and
 - (c2) relaying the communication from the locator utility to the at least one client application.
8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the act (c1) comprises an act of including in the communication information that identifies the at least one of the client applications.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one client application is selected from a group consisting of a COM-based application, a browser, a client for a remotely emulated application, and an application that is emulated on a remote client.
10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the context shared by the at least one client application comprises a user identity for purposes of a single sign-on for the at least one client application and the other application.
11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the act (a) further comprises the client initiating the connection with the CM server.
12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the system comprises a plurality of clients coupled to the server via the network, each of the plurality of clients executing at least one client application that shares the context for the period of time,
wherein the method facilitates communication between the plurality of clients and the CM server;

wherein the act (a) comprises establishing connections, through the network, between each of the plurality of clients and the CM server to enable communication between the CM server and the plurality of clients; and

wherein the act (b) comprises maintaining the connections between the plurality of clients and the CM server for the period of time during which the plurality of applications share the context.

13-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently amended) At least one computer-readable medium encoded with instructions for performing a method in a system comprising a client, a context management (CM) server and a network that couples the client to the server, the client executing at least one client application that shares a context with another application for a period of time, the CM server executing a context management service to manage the context, the context comprising at least one subject data item usable by the at least one client application and the another application, the at least one subject data item having a set of values comprising a first value corresponding to the at least one client application and a second value corresponding to the another application, the method for facilitating communication between the client and the CM server, the method comprising acts of:

- (a) establishing a connection, through the network, between the client and the CM server to enable communication between the CM server and the client; and
- (b) maintaining the connection between the client and the CM server for the period of time during which the at least two applications share the context.

19. (Original) The at least one computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the act (a) further comprises establishing a backchannel connection between the client and the CM server through TCP/IP.

20. (Original) The at least one computer-readable medium of claim 19, wherein the network includes security facilities that prevent the CM server from establishing a connection to the client.

21. (Original) The at least one computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the client comprises a locator utility, and wherein the act (a) comprises an act of establishing the connection between the locator utility and the CM server.

22. (Original) The at least one computer-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the method further comprises an act of using the connection to transmit communication from the CM server to the client for communication transactions initiated by the CM server.

23. (Original) The at least one computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein the method further comprises using the connection to conduct a plurality of transactions between the client and the CM server.

24. (Original) The at least one computer-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the method further comprises an act (c) of transmitting a communication from the CM server to the at least one client application, the act of transmitting comprising:

- (c1) transmitting the communication from the CM server to the locator utility; and
- (c2) relaying the communication from the locator utility to the at least one client application.

25. (Original) The at least one computer-readable medium of claim 24, wherein the act (c1) comprises an act of including in the communication information that identifies the at least one of the client applications.

26. (Original) The at least one computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the at least one client application is selected from a group consisting of a COM-based application, a browser, a client for a remotely emulated application, and an application that is emulated on a remote client.

27. (Original) The at least one computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the context

shared by the at least one client application comprises a user identity for purposes of a single sign-on for the at least one client application and the other application.

28. (Original) The at least one computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the act (a) further comprises the client initiating the connection with the CM server.

29. (Original) The at least one computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the system comprises a plurality of clients coupled to the server via the network, each of the plurality of clients executing at least one client application that shares the context for the period of time, wherein the method facilitates communication between the plurality of clients and the CM server, wherein the act (a) comprises establishing connections, through the network, between each of the plurality of clients and the CM server to enable communication between the CM server and the plurality of clients; and wherein the act (b) comprises maintaining the connections between the plurality of clients and the CM server for the period of time during which the plurality of applications share the context.

30-34. (Cancelled)

35. (Currently amended) A context management server for use in a system comprising a client, the context management server and a network that couples the client to the context management server, the client executing at least one client application that shares a context with another application for a period of time, the context comprising at least one subject data item usable by the at least one client application and the another application, the at least one subject data item having a set of values comprising a first value corresponding to the at least one client application and a second value corresponding to the another application, the context management server comprising:
at least one processor to execute a context management service to manage the context; and
at least one controller that maintains a connection through the network with the client for the period of time during which the at least two applications share the context.

36. (Original) The context management server of claim 35, wherein the context management server further maintains a backchannel connection between the client and the context management server through TCP/IP.

37. (Original) The context management server of claim 36, in combination with the network and the client to form the system, wherein the context management server is prevented by security facilities on the network that prevent the context management server from establishing a connection to the client.

38. (Original) The context management server of claim 35, wherein the client comprises a locator utility, and wherein the controller maintains the connection between the locator utility and the context management server.

39. (Original) The context management server of claim 38, wherein the controller uses the connection to transmit communication from the context management server to the client for communication transactions initiated by the context management server.

40. (Original) The context management server of claim 39, wherein the controller uses the connection to conduct a plurality of transactions between the client and the context management server.

41. (Original) The context management server of claim 38, wherein the controller transmits a communication via the locator utility to the at least one client application.

42. (Original) The context management server of claim 41, wherein the controller further includes in the communication information that identifies the at least one of the client applications.

43. (Original) The context management server of claim 35, wherein the context shared by the at least one client application comprises a user identity for purposes of a single sign-on for the at least

one client application and the other application.

44. (Original) The context management server of claim 35, wherein the controller maintains a network connection which is initiated by the client with the context management server.

45. (Original) The context management server of claim 35, wherein the system comprises a plurality of clients coupled to the server via the network, each of the plurality of clients executing at least one client application that shares the context for the period of time, and wherein the controller is further adapted to:

establish connections, through the network, between each of the plurality of clients and the CM server to enable communication between the CM server and the plurality of clients; and

maintain the connections between the plurality of clients and the CM server for the period of time during which the plurality of applications share the context.

46-50. (Cancelled)

51. (Currently amended) A client computer for use in a system comprising the client computer, a context management (CM) server and a network that couples the client computer to the CM server, the client computer comprising:

at least one processor to execute at least one client application that shares a context with another application for a period of time, the context comprising at least one subject data item usable by the at least one client application and the another application, the at least one subject data item having a set of values comprising a first value corresponding to the at least one client application and a second value corresponding to the another application; and

at least one controller that maintains a network connection with the CM server for the period of time during which the at least two applications share the context.

52. (Original) The client computer of claim 51, wherein the connection is a backchannel

connection established between the client computer and the CM server through TCP/IP.

53. (Original) The client computer of claim 52, wherein the network includes security facilities that prevent the CM server from establishing a connection to the client computer.

54. (Original) The client computer of claim 51, wherein the client computer further comprises a locator utility, and wherein the connection is established between the locator utility and the CM server.

55. (Original) The client computer of claim 54, wherein the client computer is adapted to receive over the connection communications transmitted from the CM server to the client for communication transactions initiated by the CM server.

56. (Original) The client computer of claim 55, wherein the at least one controller uses the connection to conduct a plurality of transactions between the client computer and the CM server.

57. (Original) The client computer of claim 54, wherein the locator utility is adapted to receive communications from the CM server to the at least one client application, and to relay the communications from the locator utility to the at least one client application.

58. (Original) The client computer of claim 57, wherein the communications include information that identifies the at least one of the client applications.

59. (Original) The client computer of claim 51, wherein the at least one client application is selected from a group consisting of a COM-based application, a browser, a client for a remotely emulated application, and an application that is emulated on a remote client.

60. (Original) The client computer of claim 51, wherein the context shared by the at least one client application comprises a user identity for purposes of a single sign-on for the at least one client

application and the other application.

61. (Original) The client computer of claim 51, wherein the at least one controller is adapted to initiate the connection with the CM server.

62-70. (Cancelled)

71. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the first value is equal to the second value.

72. (New) The at least one computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the first value is equal to the second value.

73. (New) The context management server of claim 35, wherein the first value is equal to the second value.

74. (New) The client computer of claim 51, wherein the first value is equal to the second value.